

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A sealing device, comprising:  
a sealing member brought into contact with a contact surface so as to be  
slidable in a predetermined sliding direction,  
the sealing member comprising  
a sliding contact portion containing a high polymer material to be  
brought into sliding contact with the contact surface, and  
a plurality of recessed or protruding streaks, which are independent  
of one another, provided side by side so as to constitute a column on a surface of  
the sliding contact portion, wherein each streak is bordered along its entire  
circumference by the surface of the sliding contact portion, so as to separate each  
streak from an adjacent streak by a space.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The sealing device according to claim 1, wherein the  
sliding contact portion includes an annular seal lip rotated relative to the contact  
surface.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The sealing device according to claim 2,  
wherein the sealing member ~~includes a sealing member~~ is brought into sliding  
contact with an outer peripheral surface of a rotating member.

Claim 4 (Original): The sealing device according to claim 1, wherein the sliding contact portion includes an annular seal lip axially moved relative to the contact surface.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The sealing device according to claim 4, wherein the ~~sealing member includes a~~ sealing member is brought into sliding contact with a peripheral surface of a linear reciprocating member.

Claim 6 (Original): The sealing device according to claim 1, further comprising  
an annular piston accommodated in an annular accommodation chamber for defining an annular fluid chamber in the annular accommodation chamber,  
there being provided a plurality of sealing members,  
the plurality of sealing members including inner and outer sealing members provided in the annular piston.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The sealing device according to claim 6, wherein the annular accommodation chamber is formed between an inner cylinder and an outer cylinder in a ~~the~~ housing, and

an outer peripheral surface of the inner cylinder and an inner peripheral surface of the outer cylinder are respectively provided with contact surfaces respectively corresponding to the inner and outer sealing members.

Claim 8 (Original): The sealing device according to claim 6, further comprising

an annular partition plate for defining an annular back pressure chamber for applying back pressure to the annular piston,

the plurality of sealing members including an annular sealing member provided on at least the outer periphery of the partition plate.

Claim 9 (Original): The sealing device according to claim 8, wherein the annular piston comprises an inner cylinder, an outer cylinder, and an annular end wall for connecting respective one ends of the inner cylinder and the outer cylinder,

an inner peripheral surface of the outer cylinder being provided with a contact surface corresponding to the annular sealing member provided on the outer periphery of the partition plate.

Claim 10 (Original): The sealing device according to claim 6, wherein the annular piston includes a piston for operating a clutch in an automatic transmission of an automobile.

Claim 11 (Original): The sealing device according to claim 1, wherein there are provided a plurality of columns.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The sealing device according to claim 1, wherein the recessed or protruding streaks constituting the adjacent columns are alternately arranged.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The sealing device according to claim 2, wherein the recessed or protruding streaks constituting the column are inclined along the circumference of the annular seal lip.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The sealing device according to claim 13, wherein the recessed or protruding streaks constituting the column are alternately inclined in opposite directions.

Claim 15 (Original): The sealing device according to claim 1, wherein the high polymer material includes rubber or synthetic resin.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A sliding member brought into contact with a contact surface so as to be slidable in a predetermined sliding direction, comprising:

a sliding contact portion containing a high polymer material to be brought into sliding contact with the contact surface; and

a plurality of recessed or protruding streaks, which are independent of one

another, provided side by side so as to constitute a column on a surface of the sliding contact portion, wherein each streak is bordered along its entire circumference by the surface of the sliding contact portion, so as to separate each streak from an adjacent streak by a space.

Claim 17 (Original): The sliding member according to claim 16, wherein the recessed or protruding streaks constituting the column are alternately inclined in opposite directions in a sliding direction.

Claim 18 (Original): The sliding member according to claim 16, wherein the high polymer material includes rubber or synthetic resin.

Claim 19 (New): The sealing device according to claim 1, wherein each streak is elongated and has a length and a width, with the length being greater than the width.

Claim 20 (New): The sealing device according to claim 1, wherein the streaks constituting the column include a first streak and a second streak, the first streak and the second streak being alternatively inclined in opposite directions relative to a predetermined sliding direction; and wherein the first streak is independent of the second streak, and is spaced from the second streak at a predetermined distance.

Claim 21 (New): The sliding member according to claim 16, wherein each streak is elongated and has a length and a width, with the length being greater than the width.

Claim 22 (New): The sliding member according to claim 16, wherein the streaks constituting the column include a first streak and a second streak, the first streak and the second streak being alternatively inclined in opposite directions relative to a predetermined sliding direction; and wherein the first streak is independent of the second streak, and is spaced from the second streak at a predetermined distance.